Governor Rod R. Blagojevich Director Charles D. Johnson

March 15, 2004

## **HALL OF FAME APPLICATIONS READY**

Illinois Department on Aging Director Charles D. Johnson today announced that the Department is seeking nominations for the 2004 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame.

"We have no shortage of older adults who have made remarkable accomplishments and who have enriched our state significantly," Johnson said. "The Hall of Fame is one way to honor these exceptional individuals for giving so selflessly of their time and talents and serving as role models to younger generations."

The Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame was established by the Illinois General Assembly in 1994 to honor older adults who excel in one of four separate areas of endeavor: Community Service; Education; Performance and/or Graphic Arts; and the Labor Force. Thus far, 56 individuals have been inducted.

The Department on Aging will accept nomination forms through June 1, 2004. Judges will select one candidate in each of the four categories.

Candidates will be inducted into the 2004 Hall of Fame on Senior Day at the Illinois State Fair on Monday, August 16, 2004. Eligibility is based on the nominee's past and present accomplishments in the category of choice. The candidate must be age 65 or older and a current Illinois citizen or former citizen who has lived in Illinois the majority of his or her life. Posthumous nominees are also considered.

Nomination forms are available from the Department on Aging and the state's Area Agencies on Aging. They must be completed and postmarked or faxed to the Department by June 1, 2004, to be considered.

Please call the Department's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY) for nomination forms or additional information.